

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A pan liner system for forming an improved barrier between a pan and food disposed therein, said pan liner system comprising:

a pan comprising:

a bottom panel, and

one or more side walls extending upwardly from said bottom panel, said one or more side walls each having a top edge, said top edge defining a pan top opening; and

a drop-in polymeric pan liner having a contour fit and suitable for food service applications disposed within said pan to cover an interior surface of said pan,

said contour fit pan liner further comprising a single layer film and a pre-formed bag-shaped body independent of said pan, said pre-formed bag-shaped body having:

a single contoured bottom edge forming a closed bottom end disposed over said pan proximate said bottom panel, wherein said contoured bottom edge has a flat bottom edge portion and contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions extending ~~upward~~ from said flat bottom edge portion, with said flat bottom edge portion joined and merged at each end with one of said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions,

one or more flexible side walls extending upwardly from said contoured ~~bottom~~ edge portions, wherein said side walls and said bottom end generally cover said interior surface of said pan, and

an open top end, said top end extending upwardly beyond said pan top opening and said liner open top end being folded over said top edge of said one or more side walls of said pan,

wherein said pan liner does not have dog ears formed proximate said closed bottom end, thereby preventing entrapment of food portions, and

wherein said pan liner is capable of withstanding a temperature of about 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. (currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said ~~pan liner~~ has ~~only a single~~ contoured bottom edge ~~consisting~~ consists essentially of a single flat bottom edge portion and exactly two contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions.

3. (currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein each of said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions comprises a substantially straight tapered edge.

4. (currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 3, wherein each of said tapered edges is formed having a predetermined angle from a ~~plane~~ line defined by said flat bottom edge portion, wherein said angle is predetermined based on ~~said a~~ shape and size of said pan.

5. (currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein each of said tapered edges forms an angle of about 40 to about 55 degrees with a ~~plane~~ line defined by said flat bottom edge portion.

6. (withdrawn, currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein each of said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions comprises a curved edge.

7. (withdrawn, currently amended) The pan liner system of claim 6, wherein each of said curved edges is formed having a radius that is predetermined based on ~~said a~~ shape and size of said pan.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously amended) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said contour fit pan liner is removably disposed within said pan.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said pan liner is constructed from a high temperature polyamide or polyester.

Claims 12 through 27 (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said pan liner has a tensile strength of about 13,000 p.s.i.

29. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said pan liner is non-blocking.

30. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 1, wherein said pan liner is designed to fit within a standard commercial sized and configured pan.

31. (previously amended) The pan liner system of claim 30, wherein said pan has a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangular, square, triangular and circular.

32. (currently amended) A food preparation and service system, comprising:
a standard commercial pan ~~for both preparing and serving food, said pan~~ comprising:
a bottom panel[[:]] , and

one or more side walls extending upwardly from said bottom panel, said one or more side walls each having a top edge, said top edge defining a pan top opening; and

a single layer drop-in polymeric pan liner having a pre-formed contour fit disposed within said pan to cover an interior surface of said pan ~~during food preparation and service~~, said contour fit pan liner comprising:

one and only one contoured bottom edge forming a closed bottom end disposed over said pan proximate said bottom panel, wherein said contoured bottom edge does not have dog ears, thereby reducing entrapment of food portions proximate said contoured bottom edge, said contoured bottom edge having one flat bottom edge portion and two contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions, wherein said flat bottom edge portion is joined and merged at each end with one of said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions, and said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions extend ~~outward and upward~~ from said flat bottom edge and are joined and merged at an opposite end with a side wall edge;

two flexible side walls extending upwardly from said bottom end~~[[;]]~~, wherein said side walls and said bottom end generally cover said interior surface of said pan~~[[;]]~~, and

an open top end, ~~said top end~~ extending upwardly beyond said pan top opening and being folded over said top edge of said one or more side walls of said pan.

33. (previously presented) The food preparation and service system of claim 32, wherein said pan liner is capable of withstanding a temperature of about 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

34. (currently amended) A food service system, comprising:

a food serving pan comprising:

a bottom panel~~[[;]]~~ , and

one or more side walls extending upwardly from said bottom panel, said one or more side walls each having a top edge, said top edge defining a pan top opening;

~~a receptacle formed by said one or more side walls and said bottom panel;~~

a drop-in polymeric pan liner comprising a single layer film having a pre-formed bag-shaped body independent of said pan and having a contour fit disposed within said pan to cover an interior surface of said pan, said bag-shaped body comprising:

two flexible side walls each having two side wall edges located at respective ends of said side walls, said side walls joined together at said two side wall edges;

a contoured bottom edge that does not include dog ears, forming a closed bottom end at a junction of said two flexible side walls, wherein said contoured bottom edge has a single substantially linear flat bottom edge portion ~~that extends in a first plane that is lying substantially parallel to a plane defined by said bottom panel of said pan when installed therein~~ and two contoured edge portions, each contoured edge portion joining said flat bottom edge portion to a respective side wall edge ~~edges that extend in at least one plane that is different than said first plane;~~

~~a food holding vessel defined by said two side walls extending upwardly from said closed bottom end, wherein said food holding vessel covers said receptacle of said pan;~~
and

an open top end, said top end extending upwardly beyond said pan top opening and being folded over said top edge of said one or more side walls of said pan.

35. (previously presented) The food service system of claim 34, wherein said pan liner is capable of maintaining the quality of food that is exposed to heat for an extended period of service time by preventing direct contact with said pan, thereby decreasing moisture loss from the food and preventing the food from baking-on or burning-on said pan.

36-37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A pan liner system for use in food preparation, comprising:

a pan; and

a pan liner for lining said pan, said pan liner being formed from a polymeric material capable of withstanding a temperature of at least about 400 degrees Fahrenheit, said polymeric material being formed in the shape of a bag having side edges and a contoured bottom edge, said contoured bottom edge having a single substantially linear central edge portion and two contoured edge portions, each of said contoured edge portions extending ~~outwardly~~ from ~~one~~ a respective end of the single central edge portion and joined to one of said side edges, whereby said contoured edge portions substantially eliminate entrapment of food occurring in corners of bags lacking said contoured edge portions.

39. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 38, wherein said polymeric material comprises a nylon resin.

40. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 39, wherein said nylon resin comprises nylon.

41. (previously presented) The pan liner system of claim 38, wherein said polymeric material comprises polyester.

42. (currently amended) A food pan liner system, comprising:

a pan; and

a pan liner for lining said pan, said pan liner formed with two polymeric sides meeting at side edges and at a single contoured bottom edge and having open top edges, said contoured bottom edge having a single central edge portion and two contoured edge portions extending outwardly from each end of the single central edge to

meet said side edges, with said ~~flat~~ polymeric sides bonded together along at least said two contoured edge portions and said side edges.

43. (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein said pan liner is made from a polymeric material capable of withstanding a temperature of at least 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein said pan liner is formed from a single sheet of polymeric material folded at said single central edge portion to define said two ~~flat~~ polymeric sides.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 44 wherein said ~~flat~~ sides of said folded sheet of polymeric material are joined in two continuous bonds, each extending along one of said contoured edge portions and an adjoining one of said side edges.

46. (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein each of said contoured ~~edges~~ edge portions comprises a substantially ~~straight~~ linear tapered edge.

47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said single central edge is substantially linear and intersects each of said tapered edges at an angle determined based on a shape and size of said pan.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein said angle is between about 40 degrees and about 55 degrees.

49. (withdrawn) The system of claim 42 wherein each of said contoured edge portions comprises a curved edge.

50. (withdrawn) The system of claim 49, wherein each of said curved edges is formed having a radius that is determined based on a shape and size of said pan.

51. (withdrawn) The system of claim 42 wherein said polymeric sides are generally rectangular and include dog ear portions adjacent to said contoured edge portions and separated from an interior of said pan liner by said contoured edge portions.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein dog ear portions adjacent to said contoured edge portions have been removed from said polymeric sides.

53. (currently amended) A food pan liner system, comprising:

pan means for holding food items during preparation or service thereof;

liner means for lining said pan, said liner means formed as a bag comprising two polymeric sides meeting at sealed side edges and having open top edges;

contoured bottom edge means for providing a sealed bottom of said liner means and preventing the collection of food in a corner of said liner means when installed in said pan means, said contoured bottom edge means having a single central edge portion and two contoured edge portions extending ~~outwardly~~ from each end of the single central edge portion to meet said side edges.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein said liner means is made from a polymeric material capable of withstanding a temperature of at least 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

55. (currently amended) The system of claim 53, wherein said pan liner is formed from a single sheet of polymeric material folded at said single central edge to define said two ~~flat~~ polymeric sides.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 55, wherein said contoured bottom edge means comprises two continuous bonds, each extending along one of said contoured edge portions and an adjoining one of said side edges.

57. (currently amended) The system of claim 53, wherein each of said contoured edge portions comprise a substantially ~~straight~~ linear tapered edge.

58. (currently amended) The system of claim 57, wherein said single central edge portion is substantially linear and intersects each of said tapered edges at an angle determined based on a shape and size of said pan.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said angle is between about 40 degrees and about 55 degrees.

60. (withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein each of said contoured edge portions comprises a curved edge.

61. (withdrawn) The system of claim 60, wherein each of said curved edges is formed having a radius that is determined based on a shape and size of said pan.

62. (withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein said polymeric sides are generally rectangular and include dog ear portions adjacent to said contoured edge portions and separated from an interior of said pan liner by said contoured edge portions.

63. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein dog ear portions adjacent to said contoured edge portions have been removed from said polymeric sides.